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Message Text

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47
ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OC-05

CCO-00 OCL-00 /075 W
---------- 060231
O R 121332Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6079
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ASMARA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, ET, US
SUBJECT: KAGNEW II

REF: STATE 305666; ADDIS ABABA 14968

1. OSMAN INDEED ISSUED STATEMENT ON DECEMBER 30, USING FAVORED AP CONTACTS TO DO SO. CHAOTIC STATE OF AP FILES AS RESULTS SEVERAL MOVES OF OFFICE PREVENTED AP FROM FINDING ORIGINAL OSMAN STATEMENT UNTIL TODAY. EMBASSY TRANSMITS WHEREWITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ARABIC ORIGINAL:

2. STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF ERITREAN REVOLUTION ON KIDNAPPING OF FOREIGNERS IN ERITREA. QUOTE THE ABDUCTION OF A NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN ASMARA BY THE FEDAYEEN OF BOTH WINGS OF THE ELF HAS OCCURRED RECENTLY. THE ABDUCTION INCLUDE AN ITALIAN TEACHER, THE HONORARY BRITISH
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CONSUL, AND FIVE AMERICANS WHO WORK AT THE AMERICAN

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RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BASE (KAGNEW STATION). IT IS
UNDERSTOOD BY THE EXTERNAL DELEGATION OF THE FRONT THAT
THE AIM OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES IN THESE ABDUCTIONS IS TO
PUT POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHICH CONTINUES TO PROVIDE
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. HOWEVER, IT
IS FEARED THAT THE REPETITION OF SUCH OPERATIONS WILL LEAD
TO CERTAIN HARMFUL DEVIATIONS IN THE METHOD OF THE
ERITREAN REVOLUTION, WHICH HAS CONTINUED TO RESPECT WITH
CARE THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF WAR, INCLUDING THAT
OF REFRAINING FROM ENDANGERING INNOCENT CIVILIANS OF
WHATEVER NATIONALITY. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE RECENT
ABDUCTION OPERATIONS HAVE CAUSED POLITICAL HARM TO THE
ERITREAN REVOLUTION AND HAVE EMBARRASSED IT WITH A NUMBER
OF SISTER ARAB STATES THAT SUPPORT THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION
AND HAVE OFFERED THEIR MEDIATION TO FREE THESE SEVEN
DETAINEES.

3. WHILE CONFIRMING THE CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE
WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE MILITARY COMMAND TO OBTAIN THE
RELEASE OF THESE DETAINEES WITHOUT ANY MATERIAL QUID PRO
QUO IN SPITE OF THE EXISTENCE OF A DIFFERENCE IN VIEWS ON
THIS SUBJECT, WE ALSO CONFIRM TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DETAINEES
THAT THEY ARE IN A GOOD STATE OF HEALTH AND THEIR LIVES WILL
NOT BE EXPOSED TO DANGER AND THAT WE ARE READY TO
TRANSMIT MESSAGES TO THEM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY ARE
FREED, WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE SOON.

4. THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION, WHICH IS WINNING DAZZLING
VICTORIES IN THE ARENAS OF COMBAT AND POLITICS AGAINST
THE ETHIOPIAN OCCUPATION, HAS ABSOLUTELY NO NEED OF ANY
ACTS OF ABDUCTION OF ANY KIND. THE REVOLUTIONARIES OF
ERITREA, WHOSE NUMBERS TODAY EXCEED 25,000 WELL ARMED
FIGHTERS, CONTROL MORE THAN 80 PCT OF ERITREAN TERRITORY.
THEY ARE NOW LIBERATING THE CITIES FOLLOWING THE
ESCALATION OF ARAB SUPPORT AS A RESULT OF THE KHARTOUM
AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO WINGS OF THE FRONT --
THE POPULAR LIBERATIN FORCES AND THE REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL -- LAST SEPTEMBER, WHICH ENSURED THE GRADUAL
UNIFICATION OF THE TWO PARTIES INTO A NUNITARY MERGER
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OVER A PERIOD OF EIGHT MONTHS. THE UNIFIED DELEGATION
OF THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION RECEIVED A POSITIVE RESPONSE
FROM ALL THE ARAB STATES IT VISITED RECENTLY, ESPECIALLY
LIBYA, SYRIA, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA,AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES,
WHERE THE DELEGATION MET THE KINGS AND PRESIDENTS OF THESE
STATES. ALSO, ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL CONDITIONS ARE MOVING
TOWARDS COLLAPSE FOLLOWING THE RISE OF SEVERAL ARMED
NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS AMONG THE GALLA, SOMALI,

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TIJRAAY (PHOENETIC), AND AFAR PEOPLES, AND THIS WILL HELP TO MAKE THE YEAR 1976 THAT OF FINAL VICTORY FOR ERITREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS OF THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION. UNQUOTE.
GODLEY

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